

Southeast PTO Meeting

January 3, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Attending: Julie Brown, Sarah Kaufold, Mike Kelly, Margherita Balsamo, Jessica Higham, Kimberly Clark, Gwen Sgro, Monique Brown, Silvia Dorado, Esther Soffer-Roberts, Andrea Lennon, Norma Fisher-Doiron

New Items:

Sarah Kaufold – started the meeting asking why Southeast didn't have a Holiday Concert when she knows that Goodwin did. She told the PTO that she would be willing to help with one next year if that is the reason why there wasn't one.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – explained that the Trestle Tree was up during the Holiday Season and the school is unable to use the gym for a concert. Norma explained that they alternate years between grades because they don't have the facilities at the school to accommodate all the students at Southeast School. She mentioned that there is a concert scheduled this year at Southeast.

Andrea Lennon – asked Norma if we could use the facilities at the Mansfield Middle School.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – thought this could be an option for the older grades but it would be difficult for the younger children. Norma will ask to see how viable this option is for future concerts.

Margherita Balsamo – asked if they could split the concerts into a couple of days and therefore making the audience more manageable in size.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – stated that having concerts over two days is sometimes tough on parents to attend and would be very tough on the music teacher to organize two concerts.

Andrea Lennon – updated the PTO that Game Night to be in January. She stated that she is still looking for parents to send or donate games. She said that they can return the games just make sure that there is a note explaining who to return the game to.

PTO decided to have the Game Night event on January 28, 2011

PTO decided to collect for the Soup Kitchen and not to have any raffle running during Game Night.

Margherita Balsamo – brought up the topic about having a "Room Parent" to work with teachers and parents to help with communication.

Silvia Dorado – mentioned that at a prior school that her child attended they used to have something similar to a “Room Parent” and they were responsible for helping the teachers with classroom events that required parent participation.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – mentioned that they have tried something like this in the past and it is very difficult to find parents volunteers for all the classrooms. Norma told the PTO that teachers are concerned that having “Room Parents” would add responsibilities to the teachers.

Esther Soffer-Roberts – suggested that there could be more than one “Room Parent” for each classroom to help with the work load.

Jess Higham – thought that it would be a good idea for the PTO to create a letter asking for volunteers to be “Room Parents” and have the letter reviewed by the Southeast staff during their next staff meeting on January 12, 2011.

Julie Brown – stated she would create the letter and send it to the PTO to review before the staff meeting.

Silvia Dorado – thought that Game Night on January 28th might be a good day to get parents from each of the classrooms to meet each other.

Sarah Kaufold – felt that each teacher should have the ability to revise what the duties of the “Room Parent” should be.

Andrea Lennon – mentioned at another school she had the “Room Parent” role and they were in charge of communicating information parents and introducing new student/parents to the classroom.

Margherita Balsamo – mentioned that her child had recently seen another movie and she was told ahead of time but other parents in the class where not. Margherita thought that last time the PTO discussed movies at the school the decision was made to tell the parents prior.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – told the PTO that after the last discussion she asked all the staff to send her the names of the all the movies they were going to show during the school year. The movies were all related to the curriculum.

Margherita Balsamo – had concerns that some students are now using the term ‘educational’ to refer to movies.

Silvia Dorado – stated that not all movies are bad and it depends on how the teacher uses the movies.

Principal's Report:

Norma Fisher-Doiron – stated that the school currently has 268 students. She said that 1st grade will have three classrooms next year.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – asked the PTO for suggestions for future “Parent Hours”

Esther Soffer-Roberts – suggested having someone speak to parents about the NuVal system at Big Y. She stated that the systems has been very helpful for her in the choices she makes when grocery shopping. Esther also suggested having some speak to the parents about RAD Kids.

Silvia Dorado – suggested having a “Parent Hour” about P.A.N.D.A.S (*Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infections*).

Norma Fisher-Doiron – will see if she can get someone scheduled for these suggestions.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – told the PTO that the school still has a job posting for the nurse position and the school is using subs in the mean time.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – told the PTO that the school would like to bring the Native American author Joseph Bruchac for a Young Authors event. Norma explained that it will cost the school \$2,250 dollars to have Joseph Bruchac speak to all grades at Southeast School. Norma asked the PTO if they where willing to pay the \$2,250 dollars.

Kimberly Clark – asked Norma Fisher-Doiron if we she knew what other speakers would be coming this year to gauge what the total cost for the year will be.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – will ask the staff and bring the specifics to the next PTO meeting.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – stated she is still working on an installation date for the Smartboards because it requires the classroom to be available.

Kimberly Clark – told the PTO that the Adopt-a-Family program went very well. Kimberly told the PTO that school wide did work but not all the families were available at once. Kimberly stated that accepting donations by grades was easier and using boxes in front of the office did work. WAIM was very happy with the donations

Jess Higham – thought that using the bulletin board before the parent teacher conferences was a good idea.

Kimberly Clark – thought that next year the kids should get involved with the wrapping of the gift.

Vice President's Report:

Andrea Lennon – started the Vice President's Report by thanking everyone for the for the Adopt-a-Family donations. Andrea told the PTO about Jen Schetter son's accident and updated the PTO on his

condition. Andrea mentioned that there is a sign-up sheet to help with a meal train for the Schetter family.

Kimberly Clark - motioned to donate \$200 dollars to the Schetter family and Jess Higham seconded the motion. The PTO also decided to accept donations for the Schletter family instead of the Soup Kitchen during Game Night.

The PTO decided to have Game Night on January 28th.

Andrea Lennon – mentioned that Family Skate Night will be on February 12th at 4:30 pm and ends at 5:30 pm.

Jess Higham – thought the PTO should come up with a date for the silent auction next PTO meeting in February.

Andrea Lennon motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, Mike Kelly seconded the motion

Silvia Dorado motioned to accept the meeting minutes and Kimberly Clark seconded the motion

8:53 pm the PTO meeting adjourned